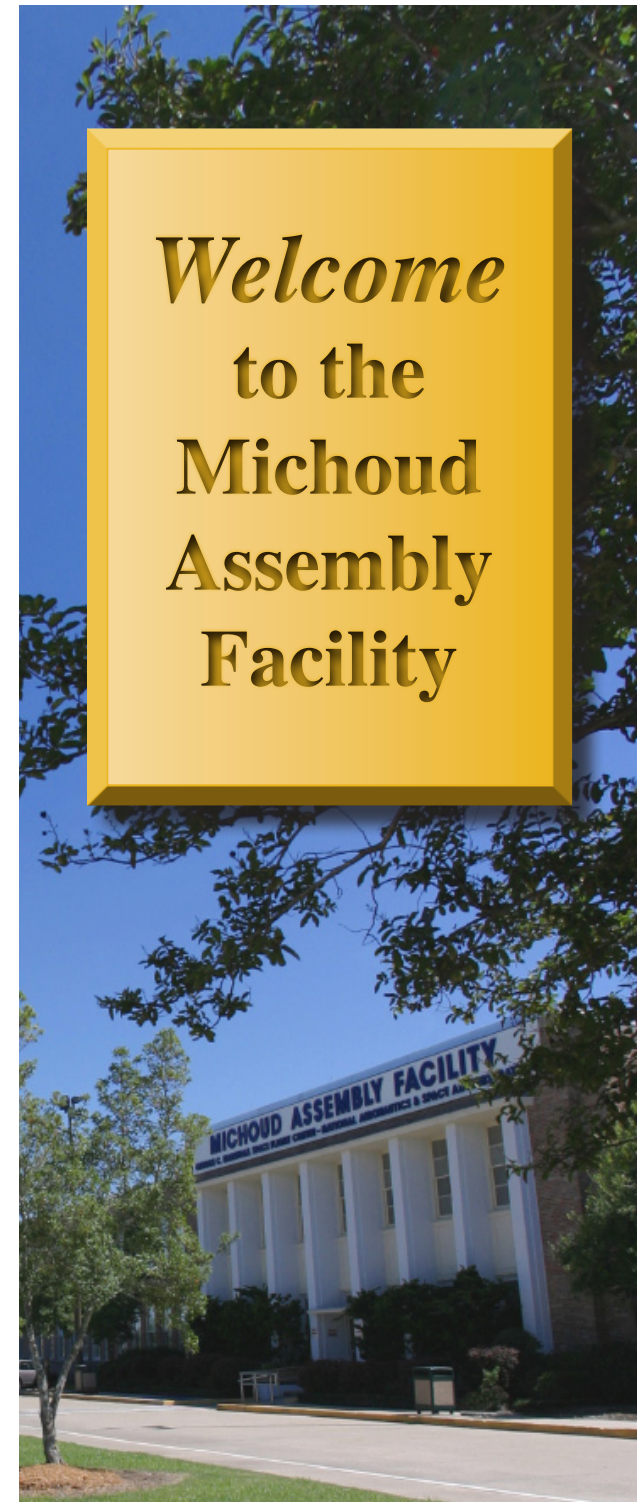


# History

The Michoud Assembly Facility (MAF) in New Orleans has a long and rich history dating back more than 200 years. A former sugar plantation, MAF built planes during World War II, tank engines during the Korean War, and large scale aerospace hardware since the 1960s. Acquired by NASA in 1961, MAF built the Saturn rocket at MAF during the Apollo space program. In 1973, a contract to design, develop, and manufacture the external tank for the Space Shuttle program began MAF's shuttle legacy. The Space Shuttle is scheduled to retire at the end of 2010. MAF is building hardware for the Orion capsule and the Ares I Upper Stage, key components of NASA's next generation space flight program called Constellation.

# Safety

During the tour of the factory floor, safety is the number one concern. The walking tour is approximately one mile, so comfortable shoes are suggested. Please wear casual clothes but no shorts, skirts, or sandals. Limit jewelry, as these items may become hazards to machinery in the factory. Cameras are allowed but no chewing gum, food, alcohol, firearms or smoking in the facility. Tours will be cancelled if the Homeland Security threat level is raised to HIGH or above. All visitors must get a security badge at either lobby of building 350 or 101 and have a sponsor or escort.





Welcome to the Michoud Assembly Facility (MAF). I hope your visit is both interesting and informative. Please

abide by all safety rules. MAF has built the external tank for the Shuttle missions since the 1970s, and is currently developing hardware for the next generation of space flight. As you walk around the assembly floor, I hope you enjoy the sights and come away with a deep appreciation knowing that every US human space flight the past three decades has come through New Orleans. We at NASA are privileged to host your group and hope you tell your friends and family about your experience today. Thank you for visiting Michoud and stay safe.

Chip Jones,  
MAF Chief Operating Officer

## Tours

To schedule a tour, call (504) 257-6226 or email [john.filostrat@nasa.gov](mailto:john.filostrat@nasa.gov) at least two weeks in advance. Tours are free and open to the public every Tuesday and Thursday at 1 p.m. Allow two hours for the tour. The following requirements are needed to schedule a tour:

- Name
- Drivers license number or passport number
- State of residence

Tours are restricted to U.S. citizens and the minimum age requirement is 10 years old. School groups are encouraged to tour the facility but must have chaperones with a ratio of 5:1. Tour groups are limited to 40 persons. The facility address is 13800 Old Gentilly Road, New Orleans, LA 70129 (see map at: <http://maf.msfc.nasa.gov/directions.html>) Buses will park in the visitor lot in front of building 350.

## Space Timeline

- The first American in space was Alan Shepard – May 5, 1961 in Mercury 3
- John Glenn was the first man to orbit the earth – Feb. 20, 1962 in Mercury 6
- Ed White was the first man to spacewalk – June 3-7, 1965 in Gemini 4
- The first man to walk on the moon was Neil Armstrong – July 20, 1969 in Apollo 11
- The first shuttle mission was April 12, 1981
- There have been more than 100 Space Shuttle flights
- 800 astronauts have traveled to space
- The Constellation Program is scheduled to take astronauts back to the moon and on to Mars

